



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

April 5,
1947
No 1463

EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

PUTTING A RIVER IN ITS PLACE

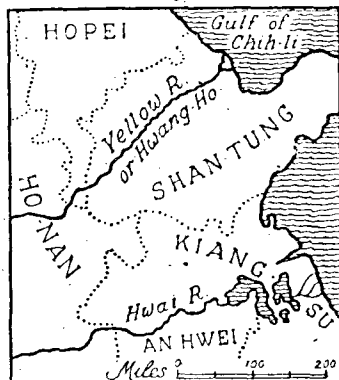
How Unrra's Engineers Have Mastered "China's Sorrow"

MILLIONS in Europe today owe their survival to the timely help of Unrra. Now has come the news that millions more, in northern China, can give thanks to Unrra for bringing to an end a desperate situation.

For, thanks to the great help given by Unrra, the titanic engineering feat of putting the treacherous Yellow River back into its old course has been accomplished. This river, known as "China's Sorrow," forsook its course in 1936 when Chinese engineers, in order to hold up the Japanese invaders, broke the river's bank, allowing its waters to pour over vast areas of low-lying farmland.

When the floods subsided the river had turned away from its mouth on the Gulf of Chih-li and made a new course south-eastward into the River Hwai. The people of the Hopei and Shantung province, however, have badly needed the Yellow River back on its old course so that its waters—drawn off in manageable quantities—could give life to their agricultural land. So Unrra provided money and engineers for the task, and now the engineers, after working during the dry season when the river is low, have closed the last gap in the river's banks, the one made by the Chinese to save their country in 1936, and the river is back where it belongs.

The river's Chinese name is Hwang-Ho, which means yellow river. Its colour is derived from the huge quantities of mud it brings down on its long journey from the Tibetan highlands where it rises. The mud sinks to the bottom when the river begins to flow slowly and widely across the great northern plain of China on the last 600 miles of its 2500-mile course. The constant deposits of mud cause the river bed to silt up and change course. So generation after generation of Chinese peasants have toiled to



build up artificial banks to hold the monster in its place so that today, in many places, the Yellow River, even at low water during the dry season, is 15 feet above the surrounding plains.

But when it is swollen by the melting snows from the Tibetan mountains, Hwang-Ho's level can rise 20 or 30 feet, and then comes the testing time for the dykes. If they break, the resulting floods mean death or destitution for hundreds of thousands. It was estimated, before the war, that every year from two-and-a-half to three million people were drowned in the river's floods or

Continued in column 4

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK



This baker's man at South Woodford, Essex, found many young hands willing to help with his deliveries and tow his improvised raft during the floods.

Big-Hump Animal

IN A BIBLE FOR THE ESKIMOS

THE Bible has been translated by an Eskimo, Roy Ahmaogak, of the Inupiat tribe of Alaska.

Roy in his time played many parts, being in turn trapper, whaler, and hunter, before deciding to take up the ministry, and it was while studying that he conceived the idea of making his translation. He was faced with many difficulties.

Because the Inupiat tribe was completely illiterate the translator had first of all to invent an alphabet. But the most difficult problem of all arose from the fact that few of this Alaskan tribe knew about such animals as camels or pigs, and this difficulty was overcome by calling camels "big-hump animals" and pigs "queer deer."

One feature of the Inupiat language is its trick of running several words together to form a combination, and the consequent quaintness of the translation is shown by this sentence from St Mark:

The Authorised Version reads: "And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of skin about his loins, and he did eat locusts and wild honey." Roy's quaint version runs: "And John was clothed big-hump-animal hair and had-a-belt-on a piece-of-skin and did-eat-insects-that-jump and bees-not-tamed that-which-bees-make."

This Eskimo Bible is to be illustrated with pictures which will help its readers to understand the text.

Black Diamonds From South Africa

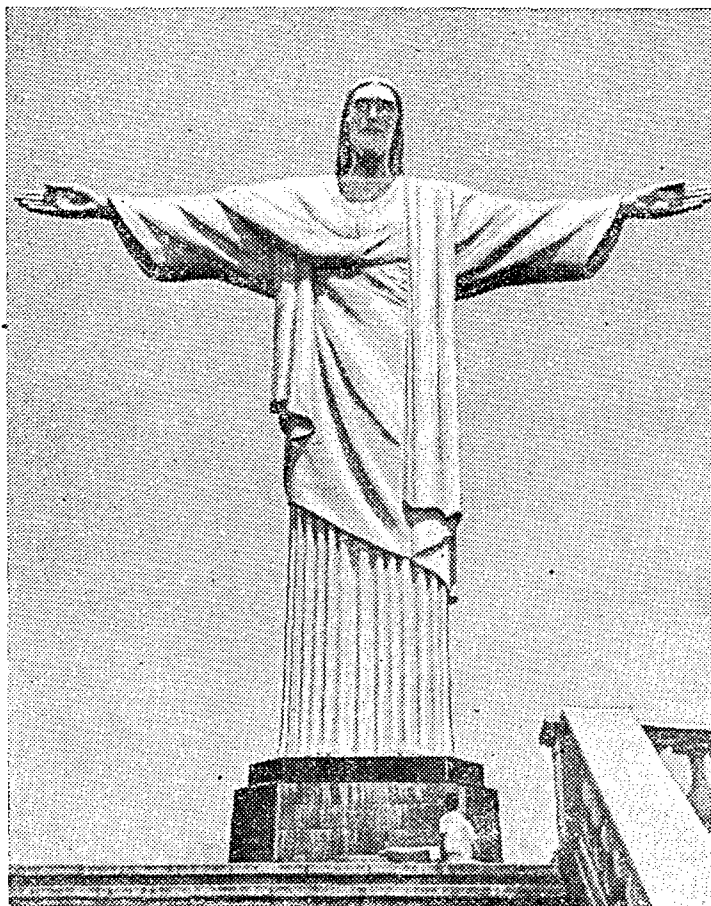
COAL from South Africa was proposed by an M.P. recently as a temporary solution to Britain's fuel problem.

South Africans, in fact, were discussing this last autumn, proud of the fact that they stepped up their production by one-third during the war years, and indeed for 1945 became the chief coal exporting country in the world. Africa, in fact, during that year supplied 26 countries.

The Union's known coal reserves are colossal, geologists' estimates being 226,771 million tons. Her own port of Durban and her Portuguese neighbour's port of Lourenco Marques have been splendidly equipped for loading ships, but the difficulty is transport from the coalfields to the coast—there is a serious shortage of wagons.

This is one of the reasons that South African coal costs £5 a ton, but Sir Ronald Weeks, interviewed by The South African Exporter last December, declared it would be to Britain's advantage—as a short-term measure—to buy coal from South Africa if it enabled her industry to turn out more goods for export.

THE REDEEMER



On Easter Morning the first rays of the rising sun will gild the white stone of this impressive figure on Corcovado Mountain, above Rio de Janeiro's beautiful harbour. 125 feet high, it was dedicated in 1931 to mark the centenary of Brazilian independence.

Sacred Relic of Buddhism

A STORY of tolerance between people of different religions comes from India at a time when fatal riots between Hindus and Moslems have been going on there. The story centres round the bones of two Buddhist saints, Sariputta and Moggallana, who were the principal disciples of Buddha.

These bones were recently returned by Britain to Ceylon, but they are to be enshrined at Sanchi in the State of Bhopal in India, where they were excavated by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1851. The present Nawab of Bhopal, who is a Moslem, has offered 25,000 rupees towards the cost of building a shrine for the relics, and his political secretary has signed an

agreement with the Ceylon Buddhists that the relics will be held in trust for the Buddhist community. The Buddhists will be allowed full control of the shrine where the relics are to be kept.

The bones were for years in the India Museum, South Kensington. Not long ago they were presented to a Buddhist Society by Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India.

After the relics arrived at Colombo on the steamer Orion, they were carried through the streets in a colourful procession with gaily caparisoned elephants, dancers from Kandy, and torch-bearers.

PUTTING A RIVER IN ITS PLACE

Continued from column 2
died in the famine following them. No wonder the Chinese also call this yellow monster of a river The Scourge of the Sons of Han.

Chinese records show that Hwang-Ho has changed its course nine times in 2500 years. It has reached the sea by its mouth in the Gulf of Chih-li only since 1851. Before that it flowed into the sea south of the Shantung promontory, 300 miles south of its present outlet. Terrible floods caused the change, and it is aptly named China's Sorrow.

Unrra's engineers have done a magnificent job, but Hwang-Ho must be controlled as well as put back on its right path. The engineers are now working hard at strengthening the embankments along the river's resumed course, so that when the next rainy season comes it shall not again burst its banks and bring sorrow to China.

When this last task has been successfully accomplished, millions in China will at long last feel secure, and, we feel confident, will never forget the great debt they owe to Unrra.

AMERICA'S NEW ROLE Her Interests Now World-Wide

THE greatest single fact in international relations after the Second World War has been the active part taken by the United States in the settlement of world troubles everywhere.

This is indeed a reversal of America's policy of aloofness from non-American affairs, a tradition dating back to the days of George Washington.

However, the world has "shrunk" since the times of Washington. Great developments in aviation have made the Americans aware that though they may be flanked by two great oceans, a stretch of 3000 and even 7000 miles of water is no more a formidable distance. New great developments in the technique of warfare which revealed themselves in the closing days of the late war, such as use of the atom bomb, employment of rockets, and jet-propelled aircraft gave a new and sinister meaning to the "shrinking" of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans which had for ages protected America against a possible aggressor. The Americans and, of course, other nations, at last understand what maritime Britain has long understood—that, for better or for worse, we are all neighbours now.

Yet the conviction that they were ceasing to be remote from the rest of the world has grown among the American people only very slowly. It began to dawn in 1917 when they came to understand the meaning of the German aggression and when they intervened for the first time in a European war. But the shock was not strong enough to convince them that the world was really getting smaller. In

the early twenties they retired to their traditional isolationism. The US signed a separate treaty with Germany, refused to join the League of Nations, and let the rest of the world carry on as best it could. So strong was isolationism in America that at the time of Germany's second war of aggression the Nazi leaders had refused to believe the US would intervene again. As Mr Churchill has recently pointed out, we should all be living in a far happier world had the US declared its interest in the Old World before 1914.

To See It Through

Today the US has clearly stated its interest in every part of the world just because developments in every part of the world are certain to affect, sooner or later, the security of America herself. Last year Mr James Byrnes declared that the US was certainly not going to pull out of Germany and Austria; it would stay there until all Allied aims in those countries were achieved. Mr Truman, in a speech reported in the CN last week, has now extended America's interest to areas of the Middle East, especially Greece and Turkey. There is little doubt that America is also vitally interested in what is going on in Persia and Arabia.

In the Pacific, too, US interests are widely recognised, and there is a good deal of agreement between all nations about letting America have trusteeship of the former Japanese-controlled islands in the Pacific.

In Japan herself America has played an important role, not only in occupying the country and depriving Japan of all its military power; but also in re-educating the Japanese for life under a democratic system.

A New Japan

General MacArthur's Military Government has changed the feudal character of the Japanese nation beyond recognition. The Emperor has ceased to pretend to be divine; the grip of the secret police has been relaxed; the Press has become free; women have been emancipated; the workers have gained the freedom of trade union activities; land reform has removed the merciless oppression of the peasant; political parties have grown in importance, and may now be able to play an important part in the democratic government of Japan. There has been also a great change in the American attitude to Japan.

It is not surprising, therefore, that General MacArthur should recommend the removal of the Army of Occupation. He thinks supervision by remote control, as it were, is still necessary, but advises that trade between Japan and the rest of the world should be quickly restored.

In this and other areas the Americans show that they have come to recognise not only the privileges but also the duties of their important position in the modern world.

A Yorkshire Jewel

FOUNTAINS ABBEY, one of the supreme examples of early monastic architecture in this country, has been acquired by a committee of well-known Roman Catholics. An application to restore the ruins has been withdrawn in view of present-day building difficulties, but the public are to continue to have access to the Abbey.

Fountains Abbey was founded by certain Benedictine monks of St Mary's, Yorks, who, resenting the lax discipline of their mother house, retired to this beautiful secluded valley near Ripon. Their buildings suffered in King Stephen's war, and in 1204 the present building was begun.

Even in its ruin, Fountains Abbey has a surprising loveliness. The tower is 160 feet high, a wonderful specimen of Gothic at its best. The remains of the cloisters, 270 feet long, are divided by 19 pillars and 20 arches extending over a riverlet bridged to support them. At the east side is a line of beautiful arches, and under one of these is the entrance to the Chapter House, a weed-grown wilderness where, in 1791, the tombs of several abbots were found.

But all the buildings of the abbey, ruins though they be, have a grace and charm beyond description. Fountains Abbey is a Yorkshire jewel and one of the loveliest sights in all England.

SIR MALCOLM'S JET-BOAT

WHEN the final test of the new jet engine for Sir Malcolm Campbell's motor-boat Blue Bird was carried out at Hatfield aerodrome recently the noise of the engine was so terrific that it was unsafe for anyone to remain in the test shed without ear-pads.

The noise changed from a shrill whistle to a vast roar as the jet engine attained 10,000 revolutions per minute. The roar caused the ground outside the shed to tremble, while the blast from the engine made large logs of wood jump in the air some distance away.

This engine, a Goblin similar to that used in the De Havilland Vampire aircraft, will propel the light Blue Bird craft by reaction and not by working a screw. It will develop 3000 h.p. and with it Sir Malcolm Campbell hopes to break his own water-speed record of 141.7 m.p.h.

Women in Parliament

WOMEN continue to make Parliamentary history. The first woman ever to be elected to the House of Commons was Countess Markievicz, although she never took her seat. That was in 1918. Then came Lady Astor, who was elected in 1919.

Britain's first woman Cabinet Minister was Miss Margaret Bondfield, who was Minister of Labour from 1929 to 1931.

Now Mrs Florence Paton, M.P., has made more history by being the first woman to take the chair in a Standing Committee of the House of Commons. Mrs Paton was once a schoolmistress.

A Standing Committee consists of about sixty members of Parliament, chosen from the different parties, to consider certain Parliamentary Bills in detail.

WORLD NEWS REEL

PRECIOUS GRAIN. On Canadian railways 11,000 box-cars are being used to transport grain from the prairies to the ports. Between 8000 and 9000 more box-cars are needed. The Canadian Minister of Transport has said, however, that ample supplies of grain are available at the ports for incoming ships.

The identification of the crew of a British plane lost during the war has been made through a button found in Germany and traced to a London tailor.

This year Britain is to import from Holland £21,000,000 worth of goods, including foodstuffs, and it is expected that Britain will export £28,000,000 worth of raw materials and machinery to Holland.

EMIGRANT SHIPS. Three British ships, the Ormonde, Chitral, and Ranchi, are to be used for taking emigrants to Australia this year.

The United States and the Philippines have made a 99-year pact under which 23 bases in the Philippines will be made available to the U.S.A. These bases may also be used by the United Nations in the interests of international security.

Nigeria's new Legislative Council, that of the second British African dependency to have a majority of members who are not officials, has held its first meeting.

During the next 12 months Belgium is to export 92,000 tons of steel to Britain under an agreement reached not long ago.

IN ANTARCTIC SKIES. An Australian-built Lincoln bomber recently flew over a point in the Antarctic farther south than any aeroplane from Australia had previously reached. It gathered weather and other information for the Australian Antarctic expedition which is to be made later this year.

Coffee, tea, and cocoa are being rationed again in Sweden. Many non-essential imports are also to be banned or reduced owing to shortage of foreign currency.

US 13th Air Force jet-propelled planes, called P 80 Shooting Stars, recently flew from Lauag in northern Luzon to Okinawa, 752 miles, in 90 minutes.

A series of films of the life of President Roosevelt are to be made, and it is hoped that the first will be released next year.

At a United Nations Fair held at Nassau, Bahamas, not long ago, over £4000 was subscribed to the British Red Cross.

THE ONLY WAY. Italy and Yugoslavia have resumed diplomatic relations with each other.

Five Chinese educationists are spending six months in Britain to study all branches of education from nursery schools to adult classes.

HOME NEWS REEL

FACE AT THE WINDOW. Foxes grew bold at Southchurch, Essex, not long ago, and one actually stood on its hind legs staring through the kitchen window of the rectory.

When the floorboards of a cage at the London Zoo collapsed a lion fell into a passage and, attracted by the smell of cooking, made his way towards a kitchen. Keepers with broom handles persuaded him to go to an empty cage.

LIVING UP TO ITS NAME. At Clitherope, Lancashire, recently, a black sheep jumped into a bread van and ate two tea-cakes.

The Amy Johnson Scholarship for aeronautical engineering has been won by Miss Pamela Fitzwater, aged 19, of the Scarborough Girls' High School.

The exhibition of the King's pictures at Burlington House was seen by 366,832 people.

FINE RECORD. Norwich finished a period of 20 months recently without one child being killed in a road accident.

In the financial year just beginning the Air Ministry will be spending an extra £450,000 on their meteorological services, including £300,000 on new Atlantic weather ships.

Research into plastics is to cost £1,000,000 a year in Britain.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

WELCOME TO FRANCE. French Scouts have organised a Welcome Fortnight to follow the 6th World Jamboree which is to take place in France this year. Visiting Scouts will have the opportunity of staying with French families or camping with French Scouts.

Reports now being received show that the Jam Jar Treasure Hunt by Scouts and Guides is proving very successful. Competi-

GRANDMOTHER GOOSE. A goose at Radcliffe in Nottinghamshire will be 26 years old in May.

Essex Education Committee propose to spend £4000 this year on teaching table manners to schoolchildren.

MILLION VISITORS. The Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone (at Blantyre), opened in 1929, has had its millionth visitor—a nurse.

All successful candidates, under 18, competing at the National Eisteddfod at Colwyn Bay next August, will be awarded book tokens instead of money prizes.

The Isle of Wight County Council has submitted to Government Departments a scheme for building dams across the Solent from the island to the mainland to use the Solent's four tides a day for generating electricity.

A NEW POTATO. The Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding has been awarded a Lord Derby gold medal by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany for their new variety of potato, called Craig's Bounty.

One scholarship for a working woman and two for coal miners are being offered this year at Ruskin College, Oxford.

tion between groups and individuals is exceptionally keen.

The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to Patrol Leader Potter of the 11th Ipswich Sea Scouts for his bravery in rescuing a fellow-Scout when the boat in which they were sailing capsized.

TRAINING CENTRE. Carronvale House at Larbert, in Stirlingshire, opened recently as a Scottish Training Centre for the Boys Brigade.

Nicholas Nickleby Comes to Town

ANOTHER Dickens film has been seen in London and will soon be seen throughout the country.

Nicholas Nickleby does not lend itself to the medium of the screen as readily as that other great Dickens story, Great Expectations, but for all that it is an excellent film full of humour and pathos.

Nicholas first appears as an upstanding young man without a job and reliant upon his uncle for his everyday needs. His experiences in Dotheboys Hall present some of the funniest sequences in the film, with the cunning, brutal, and illiterate Mr Squeers, finely portrayed by Alfred Drayton, and Mrs Squeers (Sybil Thorndike) larding out great quantities of brimstone and treacle to the half-starved schoolboys, with Nicholas finally thrashing Squeers and leaving with the oppressed Smike.

We see the hero as an actor in Vincent Crummies' company at Portsmouth, and we meet the warm-hearted Cheeryble Brothers and hosts of others. To mention all the excellent small roles in the film would take far too much space, but there must be something like thirty or more character-actors who give first-rate performances.

This Ealing Studios production of Nicholas Nickleby is a film that all should see for its humour and humanity. As Mr Squeers says, "Here's richness."

The Children's Newspaper, April 5, 1947

3

The Island of Mutton Birds

A PARTY of Australian students from Geelong Grammar School carried out some real exploration not long ago when four students, accompanied by their science master and a photographer, went to an islet on which probably no human foot had ever trod. It was the tiny island of Redondo, two miles in circumference, which is really a mountain peak whose top rises 1200 feet sheer above the sea of Bass Strait.

Landing the party there was a hazardous business because of the boisterous seas and a swift tide that swirls round the towering rocky islet. They stayed in this desolate spot for a week before they were taken off.

The young explorers gathered much information of scientific interest. There were no mammals on the island but there

were swarms of mutton birds, a kind of sea bird which dislikes sheep so much that it always leaves any place where they are kept. These birds were so tame that they became a nuisance, wanting to share the explorers' tiny tents.

The visitors reported finding kinds of plant life unlike anything found on the adjacent mainland. There were plenty of lizards, but no snakes, and no mosquitoes, though there were other kinds of insects. They found not one square yard of flat surface on the island and no fresh water. Most of the vegetation, they said, consisted of tea-trees.

Their week on Redondo entailed dangers and hardships, but we may be sure it was a grand adventure they would not have missed for worlds.

POLITE BOROUGH

As an outcome of a courtesy campaign which was organised throughout Hendon schools last year, Alderman A. W. Curton has started a Guild of Courtesy for children of the borough.

The guild has eight rules—covering good behaviour at home, at school, at play, and in the street—which members promise to learn by heart and adhere to at all times. New members sign a roll when they join the guild and renew their pledge by signing the roll once a year while still at school.

The school children have responded enthusiastically to the campaign, one school achieving 100 per cent membership.

A Link With Faraday

THE death the other day at Old Buckenham, Norfolk, of Mr Herbert E. Loveday in his 88th year has recalled the fact that Michael Faraday was a deeply religious man. For Herbert Loveday was christened by that great scientist whose lifework was illustrated in the CN last week.

Faraday belonged to "a very small sect of Christians known as Sandemanians; and our hope (he declared to a friend) is founded on the faith as it is in Christ."

Mr Loveday, himself an inventor, was one of the pioneers of modern threshing methods in Norfolk.

A ROYAL YACHT AS HOUSEBOAT

THE famous steam-driven royal yacht, Victoria and Albert, which lies at Portsmouth, will put to sea no more. She is no longer regarded as seaworthy, and the King has decided that she is to be used in future only for residential purposes when the Royal Family visit Portsmouth. The royal apartments on board will be kept ready for use and a small crew will see that the stately old vessel is kept spick and span.

The 4700-ton Victoria and Albert was built in 1899, and is 380 feet long and 40 feet wide. She is a beautiful vessel with two funnels and three masts. Buried under each mast are coins representing the sovereigns she has served. She is a coal-burner, and was able to develop a speed of 20 knots.

During the war the royal yacht was used for gunnery training duties, for she is included in the ships of the Royal Navy. In the 1939 Navy Estimates a new royal yacht was authorised, but the war stopped any plans for building a successor to the Victoria and Albert.

WHITEHALL BULL!

LION RAMPANT, a monthly magazine edited by Wendy Wood, the Scottish Nationalist, gives this amusing story of a Government department's mistake.

A breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle received instructions from Whitehall that all animals for export must have brass plates around their necks showing the names and addresses of the buyers and sellers.

After having the necessary plates engraved, he received another instruction saying: "Cancel the plates and engrave the same information on the animals' horns."

The breeder is now hoping for further instructions on how to grow horns on Aberdeen Angus cattle!

Churches of the Future

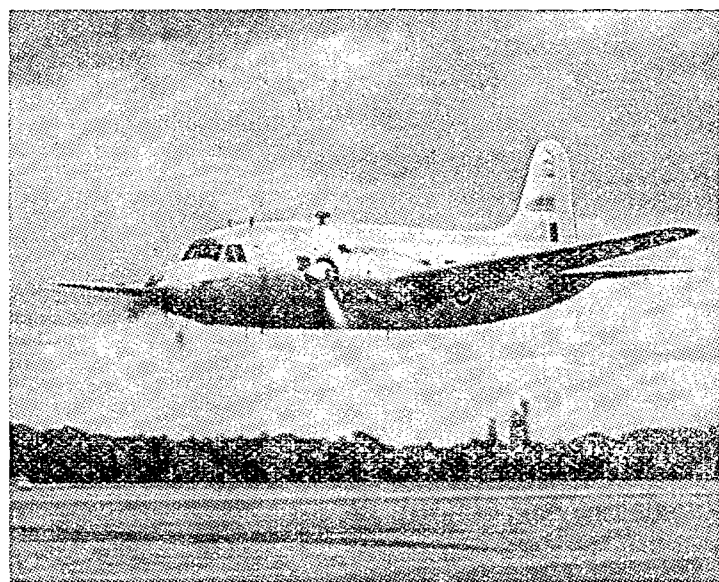
DESIGNS for new churches were shown at a recent exhibition in Sheffield. Those submitting the designs had worked on the idea that a church for present-day needs should be combined architecturally with a community centre.

The plans include those for an octagonal church, an oval one, and a church with the altar placed in the centre. Space is allotted in the plans for community halls and clubrooms, a kindergarten, a cinema, playgrounds, lawn tennis courts, and bowling greens.

Opening the exhibition, Lord Halifax described the object of the planners as "The common ground between the civic, family, and social side of our society and the spiritual value for which the fellowship of the church stands."

PRECIOUS STAMP FRAGMENT

ONE-THIRD of a Canadian three-cent stamp was sold in London not long ago for £155. The stamp had been originally cut because, in 1899, the postmaster of Port Hood, Canada, found that he was short of one-cent stamps. So he cut a three-cent stamp into three pieces and put the figure 1 on each piece.



The King's Plane

One of the four Vikings of the King's Flight which will be used by their Majesties and the Royal Party to fly from Pretoria to Southern Rhodesia next week.

Helping Themselves

A MARIONETTE show, vocal items by a choir of 50, and a play went to make up a 2½-hour revue, entitled The Coffee Stall, which Stretford (Manchester) school-children presented recently as an initial effort to raise between £10,000 and £15,000 for a Stretford Children's Theatre.

The producer was Mr Bertram H. Holland, art master at the Old Trafford County Modern Secondary School for Boys. He believes in "Shakespeare as an alternative to playing on Stretford bomb-sites." All the properties used in the revue were made by the children themselves; and teachers helped the show along, some of them even writing songs and music.

For six weeks more than a hundred children, aged ten to fifteen, gave all their spare time to rehearsing and so making a success of the revue.

MORE THAN MANY HAPPY RETURNS

MOSCOW radio recently reported that a villager of Sadovo, in the Stavropol region of Russia, had just celebrated his 142nd birthday!

The villager's name is Chishkin, and his father lived to be 137.

Chishkin still takes an active part in village life, it was stated, and attended a conference to discuss a recent statement on agriculture by the Russian Government.

Archbishop of the Bush

GOING out again to Australia as the new Archbishop of Perth is a vigorous London clergyman, the Revd R. W. H. Moline of St Paul's, Knightsbridge. A look at his face (writes a CN correspondent) tells us he was made for the big open spaces, and he will have plenty of them in his vast diocese. "Give me a horse," he said, "I love horses." He will have plenty of riding in Western Australia, and this will remind him of his younger days.

In 1922 he went out to Queensland as a member of the Bush Brotherhood—that gallant and hardy band of young clergymen who roam through the ranching and sheep-farming country. Each man must be able to ride well

SEEKING SHELTER

So severe were the blizzards in the North of Scotland that many different forms of wild life were forced to take refuge near the railway lines.

At Forsinard Station, in Caithness, a large stag ignored the passing trains and sheltered behind the signal box. A covey of 40 grouse also became bold and perched on a nearby fence.

At Loch Watten a small pool, kept ice-free by a spring, was occupied by between 200 and 300 wild duck.

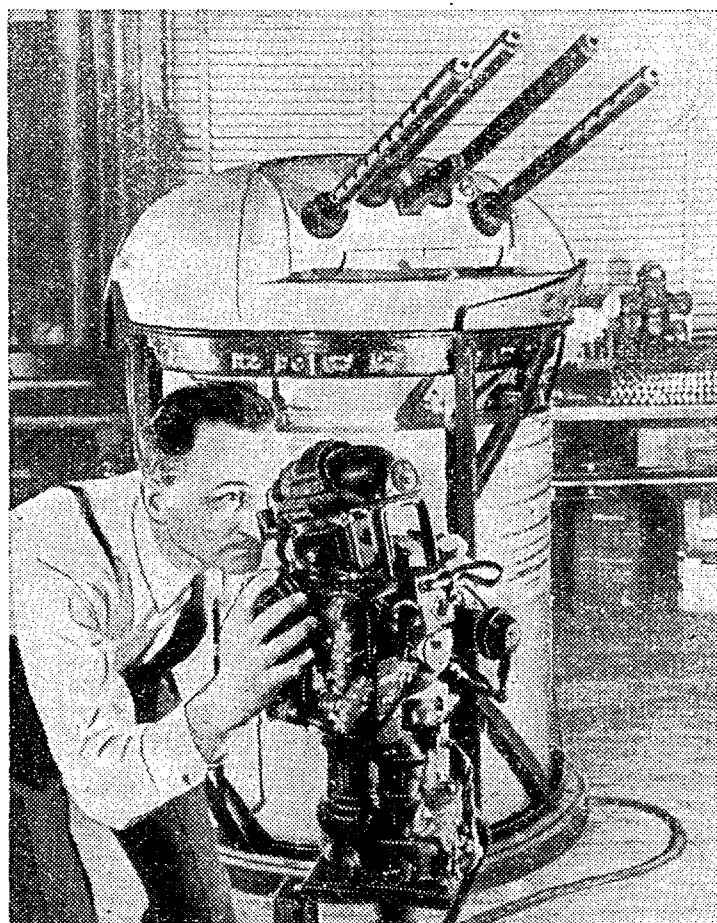
Round the Museums

EARLY CANDLES

BEFORE the development of the candle, rushlights were used for the lighting of homes. Stripped of their external skin,



the rushes were dipped into a crude boat like this, which was filled with melted mutton fat. When the fat dried the process was repeated until the desired thickness was attained. These objects are in the Brighton Museum.



Sword Into Ploughshare

This American remote control system for aiming and operating guns has been demobbed, and scientists and engineers are now converting it for peacetime service in industry. It can be used for controlling and regulating machinery.

April 5, 1947

The Children



Cyclists Run Upstairs

Competitors in the famous Montmartre Cycle Cross-Country Race carrying their machines up the steps to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Paris, which are part of the course.

A NEW HOME FOR PETS THAT FAILED

By the CN Zoo Correspondent

ANIMALS which have proved "unsatisfactory" as pets continue to reach the London Zoo almost every week and, even if they "failed" in the domestic sphere, make interesting additions to the menagerie. Let me introduce you to a few of these newcomers and tell you why they disappointed their owners and had to go.

Firstly, meet Pepel. Pepel is a West African, two-spotted palm civet, or tree-cat, who belonged to Mr H. F. Bates, of Bayswater. Mr Bates acquired his unusual pet in Sierra Leone. To look at, Pepel is most attractive, faintly resembling a mongoose, with soft grey fur patterned on the shoulders with two large pale spots—the distinctive mark which gives the species its name.

As a domestic pet, however, Pepel was a dismal failure, and, as Mr Bates explained, "he has become a nuisance. At first he seemed a friendly little animal, but now he bites and runs away. And to avoid capture he is always running up curtains or climbing furniture, which is soon damaged by his sharp little claws."

Well, of course, at the Zoo, Pepel's little ways are of no importance whatever, and I have no doubt he will soon make a host of friends, once he has had

time to get used to the new life.

Then there is George the guillemot. George, who came up by train from Hampshire as a gift from Mrs H. Cotterill-Davies, of Lymington, "failed" as a pet because of his enormous appetite. "I picked him up some weeks ago on the beach near here," Mrs Cotterill-Davies wrote in a letter to the Zoo superintendent. "He was in a completely helpless condition. Not only was his plumage badly smeared with oil, but, having been buffeted by heavy seas, he was so weak he could hardly stand."

"I took George in, put him in my greenhouse, cleaned him up, and was hoping to make a pet of him. But, though he is now very tame, to satisfy his huge appetite is quite beyond me—I can never manage to get as many herrings and sprats as he would like. So I hope you will agree to give George a home in the Zoological Gardens where, I am sure, there will be plenty of fish for him."

The Zoo, of course, obliged, and today you can meet George at the Eastern Aviary and watch him swallowing fish until he can eat no more.

Lastly, meet Polly. Polly is a Brazilian blue-fronted parrot, a species often kept as pets in this country. Polly herself is an exceptional bird, however, for she is not only an enthusiastic "chatterbox" but she speaks both English and French!

Why should so talented a bird be given to the Zoo? Because Polly's owner, Mrs L. A. Watson, of Brixton, had to move house, and unfortunately no parrot—not even one that spoke two languages—was welcome in the new home. So to London's Zoo came Polly. And to the Zoo will doubtless come many visitors, eager to hear this amusing bird talk. They will not be disappointed, for although Polly's French consists mainly of single words such as *Oui*, *Non*, and *Hola!* she occasionally uses others which keepers no doubt will in time be able to identify.

C. H.

A Glorious Music-Maker

IT is just half a century ago, on April 3, since the death of Johannes Brahms, the third of the immortal company known universally as the "Three B's," the other two being Bach and Beethoven. Unlike many composers, Brahms was encouraged in his musical career by his father, the finest double-bass player in Hamburg.

In this German city Brahms was born in 1833, and there, while still a mere boy, he began to arrange marches and dances for café orchestras. At fourteen he gave his first public concert, and at twenty went on tour with a Hungarian violinist named Remenyi. It was during this tour that he gave a foretaste of his brilliant future. The piano provided for an evening concert was found to be a semi-tone below concert pitch, and Brahms astonished everyone by transposing at sight the difficult accompaniment of Beethoven's C Minor Violin and Piano Sonata!

Shortly afterwards, Brahms met the famous violinist Joachim in Hanover. "In brief," said Joachim afterwards, "he is the most considerable musician of the age whom I have ever met." This was an opinion supported by the great Schumann, who referred to Brahms' work as "music the like of which I never heard before."

Unspoiled by Success

All through his life Brahms remained unspoiled by the success he achieved. Nor did he despise other musicians who worked in lesser spheres than himself. He admired the waltzes of his contemporary Johann Strauss, and once, when asked for his autograph, jotted down the opening bars of The Blue Danube, adding underneath, "Not, I am sorry to say, by your devoted friend, Johannes Brahms."

He never forgot the debt he owed his parents, and once, on a visit to his home, and having noted his father's straitened circumstances, he pressed him to accept his own copy of Handel's Oratorio Saul. "Dear father," he later wrote, "if things go badly with one, the best consolation is always in music. Read carefully in my old 'Saul' and you'll find what you need." When his father followed this advice he found the pages interleaved with banknotes!

Brahms left a huge output of glorious music, including four great symphonies, and over two hundred songs.

Learning His Trade



Many young students attend evening classes to gain greater skill at their trades. Here, under the eye of an instructor, an apprentice silversmith is working on the base of a chalice.

The Editor's Table

LEADERS ALL

VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY has struck a vigorous note of challenge to Britain. He has called on all ranks in the nation's life to discover new leaders. (He was not, of course, speaking to us as a party politician.) "It is vital today," he said, "that we should have leaders at all levels in every walk of life who are able to dominate the events that surround us, and who will never let those events get the better of us or of the nation."

Turning his soldierly eye on our national position the Field-Marshal sees us short of manpower, coal, and dollars. With his battle-winning technique he says that we must "dominate the enemy" instead of letting him dominate us, and that there is only one way of doing this—by hard work resulting in more production. Every man must do a full day's work and be prepared to work hard during the hours of work. The habit of slacking, of avoiding hard jobs, of wasting time at the beginning and the end of the day, is playing traitor in the campaign for a happier, prosperous Britain.

RECOGNISING that the task each one of us is now doing is what counts, and that the time for talking is past, we have to work to save our own lives and the life of the world dependent on us. We must regain our national pride in work, the results it achieves, and the honour it brings. The old skilled craftsmanship that gave British goods their hall-mark is still alive. In Yorkshire mills there is a rare pride in cloth; in Staffordshire they make pottery second to none; in Lancashire there is still the same mastery of cotton-spinning; in thousands of small factories up and down the land a new cunning in design and workmanship is fast developing. Britain can make it, and make it well, but we can defeat shortages, slow production, lazy work, and selfish indifference only if the fire of leadership enters into the plans and determination of every ordinary citizen.

WE are beginning a battle in which every citizen is a soldier carrying a field-marshal's baton, and uses that baton in the daily job. It is a battle to be fought in the mines, in the factories, in the workshops, and in the offices of Britain. Upon this battle depends our security as a nation and our hoped-for security as a people. And in this battle we are our own leaders—every one of us.

LITTLE KINDNESSES

SHE doeth little kindnesses, Which most leave undone, or despise; For nought that sets one heart at ease, And giveth happiness or peace, Is low-esteemed in her eyes.

J. R. Lowell.

Austerity Indeed

WHEN 30 men on motor bicycles made before the First World War rode non-stop from Tattenham Corner, near Epsom, to Brighton not long ago, they received certificates with pictures of the metal plaques they would have received but for the shortage of metal.

We shall all hope this idea will not be extended. A certificate is all very well as a certificate. But we should get a shock if on our birthdays we were given certificates with pictures of the presents we might have received but for the shortage of... and so on. And we shall hope, too, that Santa Claus does not adopt this idea.

Of one thing we can be certain; winners of prizes in the CN competitions will NOT receive certificates carrying pictures of the prizes they might have received but for the shortage of this or that.

Prussia No More

NO tears will be shed at the passing of Prussia, once the kingpin of the German Empire, which the four Foreign Ministers in Moscow have agreed is finally to disappear from the maps of Europe. It was the largest state in Germany.

The word "Prussian" has long sounded evil in our ears. It told of soulless martial might, the iron heel, boastfulness, conceit, and a lust for domination.

From 1700 to 1918 Prussia was a kingdom. To it Frederick the Great by conquest added much territory. Later wars and Bismarck's cunning brought other German States under the influence of Prussia, whose king became the first German Emperor in 1871.

Eventually came the First World War, which Prussia, under Kaiser Wilhelm, engineered. When Hitler and his Nazis came into power, they spread Prussia's evil influence over what they called Greater Germany.

Under the E

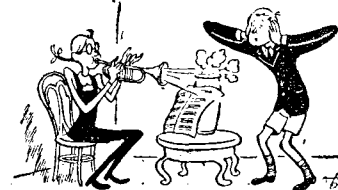
A LADY made a table out of a palm stand. Handy.

HOMES should be furnished with taste. Instead of furniture?

AN M P says he has no outside interests. Hopes to be Home Secretary.

SOME boys dislike physical exercises. Think drilling is boring.

PROPER mastication is the key to health, says a doctor. Don't bolt your food.



A LITTLE girl has learned to play the cornet. Her brother says "Blow it!"

THINGS SAID

I LIKE your climate.
The new American Ambassador

I KNOW now why the British people have become great and spread all over the world. People who can stand this weather can stand anything.

Jaffa's Arab Town Clerk, after a Local Government course at Brighton

NEARLY every schoolchild who wants milk is getting it.
Minister of Education

WE in Ulster would rather live with you under austere conditions than live in a so-called paradise with anybody else.

The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland

TODAY history is standing on its head; unemployment is due to under-production, not over-production. *Hugh Dalton*

WE will show the world today that British democracy can be by self-discipline and the team spirit overcome our economic troubles and so move on to better times for all.

The Prime Minister

Weather Knows No Barriers

"BY nature the weather is international; to every people the weather comes from other countries."

This reminder of a plain fact was given to the House of Commons by the Air Minister the other day when he was speaking about Britain's meteorological services.

For all nations the weather is a permanent import and export, whether they like it or not. It knows no barriers; and though it sometimes brings storms, drought, and disaster, it brings also welcome sunshine and rain.

Truly, the weather is an important commodity. But it is not for men to buy and sell; its distribution is governed by a Higher Power.

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If bookworms
who need exercise
skip pages



A LADY makes pillow-cases out of flour-bags. If self-raising, saves having an alarm-clock.

THE best way to improve your circulation is to go for a walk. Or take a brisk turn.

A LADY says her hair grew so fast it surprised the hairdresser. Was quite a shock.

A COOK says she makes rabbit taste like chicken. And chicken like rabbit?

THE business-man who began life as an office-boy must have been a precocious baby.

Cricket as Usual

ALL cricket-lovers are relieved to know that cricket has been spared the axe which has fallen on much other mid-week sport.

The cricket season is also the holiday season, and many people on holiday, including schoolboys, look forward eagerly to watching a day's cricket at Lord's or the Oval, Old Trafford, or Trent Bridge, and other county grounds. Moreover, the South Africans are our guests this year, and they must be given a good show.

Some good games of first-class cricket, mid-week or weekend, will help everyone to find respite from their present cares and to return to work in good heart after days in the sun.

APRIL'S PROMISE

IF it thunder on All Fools' Day, It brings good crops of corn and hay.

APRIL with his hack and his bill, Plants a flower on every hill.

IF the first three days in April be foggy, Rain in June will make the lanes boggy.

A COLD April the barns will fill.

A SHOWERY April brings a flowery May.

History in the Making

IN the recent chilly days of fuel shortages and electricity cuts it was pleasantly warming to think of Mr Churchill spending the morning in bed as, comfortably propped by the pillows, he dictated to his secretaries his eagerly-awaited history of the years 1936-46. This, we feel, is the way history ought to be written and should ensure a kindlier outlook than perhaps humanity deserves on the part of the historian.

Mr Churchill has finished the ground work of his history. Each section of the history will be dedicated to his fellow-countrymen, thus: "To the British people who in their folly did not see the German menace coming . . . To the British people who in their greatness resisted it . . . To the British people who in their glory conquered it."

The British people, on their part, will certainly never forget the greatness and glory of the historian during the tremendous years of which he writes.

Give Cheerfully

HE which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. *St Paul*

JUST AN IDEA

A sailor would never acquire skill were there nothing to disturb the ocean.

Sticks & Wheels

By the CN Sportsman

THE first holiday of the year always brings a feast of sport, and among the regular Easter events of wide appeal are the Folkestone Hockey Festival and the Cycle-Racing meeting at Herne Hill.

The Hockey Festival engages 36 amateur teams, and six pitches are in use three times every day; but there is no competition and there are no trophies. Among the English clubs taking part is the Ironsides, a side raised by the Royal Tank Corps. Teams from France, Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland are also playing.

On Good Friday amateur and professional cycle-racing champions will meet at Herne Hill, London, for the first big cycle race of the year, in which teams from Holland and Belgium will compete. For some English cyclists more than the honours of the race will be at stake, for the amateurs will be struggling to gain a place in the trials from which Great Britain's representatives for the Olympic Games next year will be selected.

America's English Mastiffs

THERE is hope, after all, that our grand old English dog, the Mastiff, may not become extinct in England, for help may come from America.

Having read a recent article



on the English Mastiff in the CN, a correspondent has sent us some interesting details about the breeding of English Mastiffs in the U.S. Some of these dogs, bred from Mastiffs brought over from England, have won prizes at dog shows in the U.S. The Mastiff Club of America expects in the future to send some Mastiff puppies, or full-grown dogs, back to England so that we may have fuller opportunity for helping to preserve this noble breed of dogs.

Our picture shows Sheba, one of the U.S. English Mastiffs, photographed in Chicago when she was ten months old.

THE MAN WITH A LADDER

WHILE at work on the foundations of a new row of houses, a number of workers became aware of a man carrying a ladder who had stopped and was watching them with interest.

One of the builders immediately called out to his mates, "Better get a move on, boys! Here's a chap come to clean the windows!"

THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS

APRIL is here, and the great spring migration in bird life has begun. Thousands of birds which avoided our dark and cold winter by flying south to lands of sunshine are winging their way back to Britain for the nesting season. The vanguard of this welcome host has already arrived; the main body will soon follow to swell the growing chorus of spring.

Apparently none the worse for their long, strenuous flight, the birds settle down quickly, and are soon absorbed with home-making affairs.

A few days before the end of March the chaff-chaff was heard, merrily piping its name from the tree tops.

While the chaff-chaff advertises its presence, the wheatear, real pioneer of the visitors, unobtrusively makes its way back to its haunts in the wilder hill country. There, this little pied bird bobs and dips to his mate, and shares its rocky environment with another early arrival, the ring ouzel, which resembles a blackbird with a white bib.

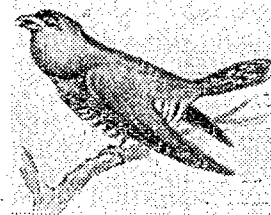
To the fields and woodlands nearer our homes come many old friends. The nightingale returns year after year to the same coppice, where it delights us with the glorious song that is best appreciated in the hush of evening.

Several kinds of warblers, including the whitethroats and the blackcap, are busily engaged in the hedges and undergrowth at the fringe of the woods. Restless, intent on nesting matters and on food-finding, they still have time to spare for their low, liquid songs. Not easy to identify, each warbler is very much an individual, with habits of its own.

The Cuckoo's Call

Towards the end of this month the cuckoo's ringing call will be heard, first in the south, and later spreading over the whole of Britain. These parasites of the bird world like park or open woodland, where the hen chooses suitable nests in which to deposit her eggs.

The flycatchers, both spotted and pied, use a convenient perch in the hedgerow from which they dart out to snap audibly at flying insects, returning each time to



The Cuckoo

the same twig. From a commanding bush-top perch, too, the red-backed shrike, sometimes called "butcher bird," swoops out on its prey of beetles, bees, and smaller birds. Its catch, if not eaten immediately, is impaled on the thorns of a nearby bush.

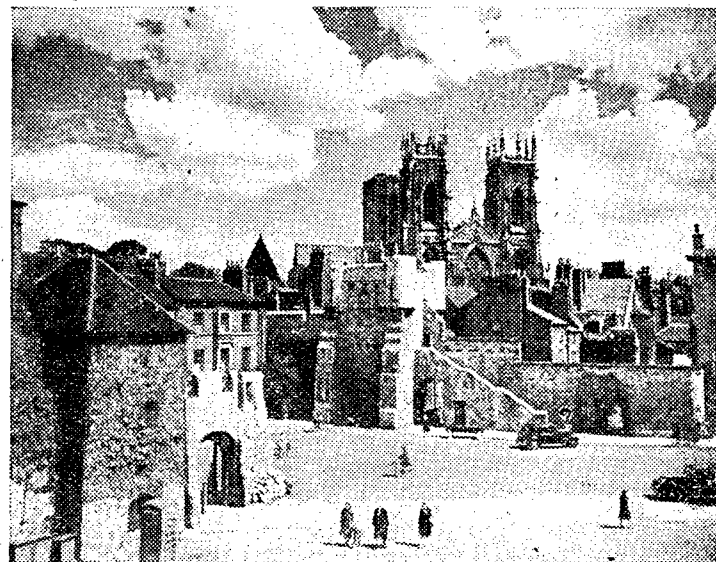
Less offensive is the gentle turtle dove, a vegetarian, whose low, plaintive cooing provides a continual background to the woodland chorus.

The Faithful Swallows

Inside the woodland the wry-neck may have its nest in the hole of a tree trunk. This bird actually does twist and writhe its neck when feeding, and the hen, surprised at her nest, utters a low menacing hiss. In the evening the nightjar's churring notes can be heard as the bird perches lengthwise along a bough, waiting for the moths and night-flying insects to emerge.

The swallows, swifts, and house-martins remain faithful to the villages and farmsteads where they have nested for many years past. Often they build their nests at exactly the same spot as before, sometimes using remnants of the old nests as foundations for the new. The homely twittering of swallows and martins under the eaves, and the wild, screaming cries of the swifts as they dive and wheel ceaselessly through the sky, tell us that at last summer is close at hand.

Each spring more than fifty kinds of birds come here regularly to breed. We welcome them for their song, and for the colour and life they bring to our countryside. The majority, too, are insect eaters, and were it not for their annual visit our countryside would soon cease to be the pleasant green land it now is.



THIS ENGLAND

Beautiful York Minster looks down on the old walled city

Good Friday Customs

MANY and curious are the customs and ideas associated with Good Friday, the most solemn day in all the Christian calendar.

In days long gone by it was thought that special healing qualities attached to bread baked on Good Friday, and for this reason bread made on this day was carefully kept during the ensuing year because, when grated into hot water, it could be used as a cure for many ailments.

The hot cross bun may have had its origin in pagan days when small wheaten cakes were eaten at the Spring Festival. Then, with the coming of Christianity, the old pagan custom was adapted to the new religion, and given a new significance by adding the Cross as the symbol of the solemn meaning of Good Friday.

Blacksmiths once believed that it was unlucky to work on Good Friday, because nails and hammer had been put to such cruel use at the Crucifixion.

On this day church bells would toll nine times, followed by 33 strokes representing Christ's age at the time of His death.

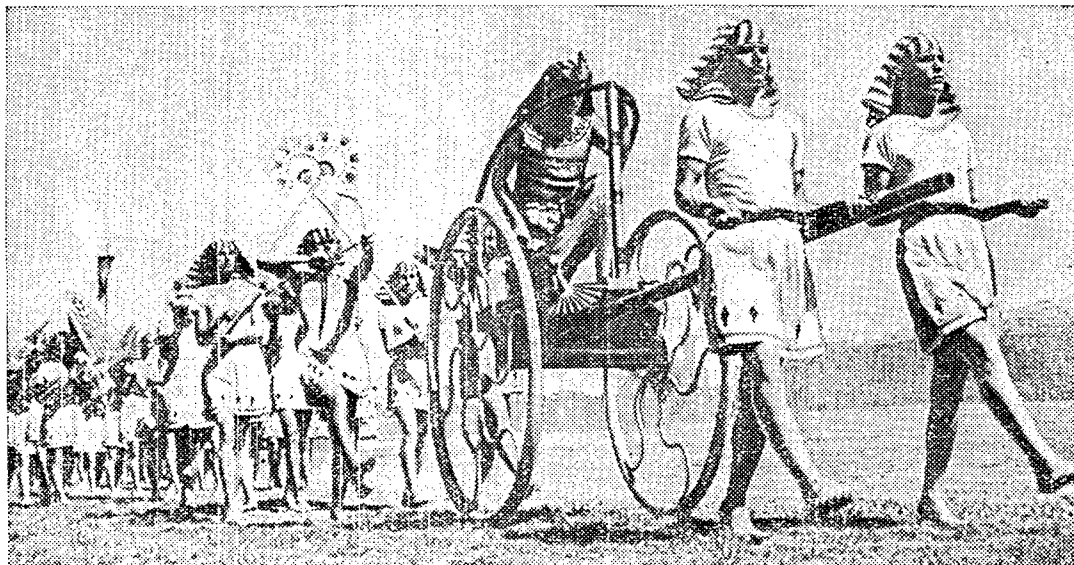
Country folk believed that it was unlucky to sweep from the hearth outwards towards the door on Good Friday.

Even today some gardeners still believe that unless the first potatoes are planted on Good Friday afternoon, poor crops will result.

Some gipsies will not touch water on Good Friday because the guilty Pilate washed his hands in it at Christ's trial.

One of the most interesting Good Friday customs is "the thrashing of Judas Iscariot" in the churches of Florence, in Italy. At a certain point in the Good Friday services the boys of Florence beat the benches with long willow rods.

AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN FRIEZE COMES TO LIFE



A striking display at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Royal Academy of Police in Cairo

The Egg in the Sweetshop

FOR the first time for many years chocolate Easter Eggs are on sale in the shops; theirs is a welcome return.

The egg has been a symbol of hope and resurrection ever since early Christian times, and the custom of giving coloured eggs on Easter morning can be traced back in England to the days of Edward I. The Roll of his Household Expenses mentions "four hundred and a half of eggs for Easter Day, eighteen pence." These were stained in boiling or covered in gold leaf.

Henry VIII received a present of an Easter Egg in a case of silver filigree from the Pope, and Easter Egg customs in various countries have altered little down the years. Hakluyt tells of the common people in Russia carrying eggs coloured red on that day, gentlemen - and gentlewomen having theirs gilded. "When two friends meet during the Easter Holydays they come and take one another by the hand: the one of them saith, 'The Lord is risen!' The other answereth, 'It is so of truth.' Then they kiss and exchange eggs."

In Germany, sometimes in place of eggs an emblematic picture was given. One of these is preserved in the print room of the British Museum. It shows three hens supporting a basket containing three eggs ornamented with symbols of the Resurrection. The centre egg has the Lamb of God with a chalice representing Faith; the other two bear the emblems of Hope and Charity.

In Italy and Spain during Easter and the following days hard eggs painted different colours, but generally red, were the ordinary food of the season.

In "Sketches of Germany and the Germans in 1834, 35, and 36" the author mentions that the Vienna Easter Egg was composed of silver, mother-of-pearl and other expensive material, and filled with jewels or ducats.

FREEING THE WORLD FROM WANT

THE Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is hard at work within the United Nations, creating a famine reserve of basic foodstuffs and recommending a world control office. Hundreds of thousands may starve unless a plan is evolved for production and distribution.

The chief farming areas are in the New World and Australia. The farmer in these lands is a business man on a large scale, but he is very often dependent on one crop. He wants a second crop which will stand him in good stead, and should learn some new ideas from FAO.

But large farming areas in Asia are in the hands of small, peasant farmers, who grow just enough for their families and have little to sell. Their problem is poorness of soil and lack of space to practise rotation of crops.

Adequate food for all is the problem now facing the world's

food experts. In 1937 the League of Nations showed that malnutrition exists in all countries, and so President Roosevelt called the food conference at Hot Springs in 1943. Forty-five nations there determined to set up an organisation which at present is the FAO.

It was in 1945 that the FAO began its job of finding the facts about the world's food, covering

A Buried Church

RECENT erosion on the Norfolk coast has had the effect of revealing a ruined church.

It was some time before the 17th century that the sea engulfed St Mary's at Eccles. Fragments of the wall survived, and also the tower, which eventually collapsed in a gale in 1895.

As a result of strong easterly winds, the sea has lately taken big quantities of sand from the beach and uncovered parts of the walls and the tower.

agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and statistics. One of its first practical tasks was in raising the living standard of the Greek people, most of whom are peasant farmers.

Then came the world food shortage of 1946, born out of a 30-year neglect and mis-management on a world scale—shown especially in wastage of soil, wastage of supplies, and bad distribution. Called on to make a short-term plan to meet the emergency, the FAO proposed that a famine reserve of food should be built up and held against future world shortages.

But FAO is determined to press on with its long-term plans of getting the nations to think and work together on the biggest human problem they have ever faced together. Lack of good, adequate food is the root cause of disease, bad work, distress, and discontent in the world. To free the world from want is now a major aim of FAO.

IVANHOE—Sir Walter Scott's Great Historical Romance, Told in Pictures

Bois Guilbert struck Athelstane a fearful blow. Then he escaped with his prisoner, Rebecca. Later, Athelstane's retainers bore his apparently lifeless body to his castle at Coningsburgh. Outside Front-de-Boeuf's burning castle, in which the tyrant had perished, Cedric and Rowena thanked Locksley and the Black Knight for their

deliverance and, before departing, Cedric sadly invited the knight to Coningsburgh for Athelstane's funeral. Isaac, who had been rescued by Friar Tuck, was grief-stricken when told that his daughter had been abducted. Then Locksley divided the spoil from the castle among his followers. The Black Knight asked only to dispose of

the prisoner, De Bracy, whom he generously set free. The Black Knight accepted Locksley's bugle as a gift and then rode to St. Botolph's Priory where wounded Ivanhoe had been taken. There he told Ivanhoe to meet him at the funeral at Coningsburgh, where he intended to reconcile him to his father, Cedric.



While the Black Knight, guided by Wamba, was riding to Coningsburgh, he was suddenly attacked by seven men-at-arms and a blue-armoured knight. The horseman thrust at the Black Knight's steed, bringing him and his rider down. Wamba, who had the bugle, now blew on it a call he knew the outlaws would recognise—if they heard it.



Then he helped the Black Knight to his feet and the doughty warrior drew his sword. With his back to an oak tree he was hard pressed indeed when an arrow struck down his leading assailant. Then Locksley and his outlaw yeomen came into the fray and overcame the assassins.



The Black Knight thanked his rescuers and said he was very curious to know who his unprovoked enemies were. "Wamba, open the visor of the Blue Knight," he said. Wamba removed the fallen knight's helmet and revealed the grizzled locks of Waldemar Fitzurse, Prince John's chief supporter in his conspiracy to seize the throne.



The yeomen looked on in amazement as the Black Knight rebuked Fitzurse—yet spared his life. Then the Black Knight said: "I am Richard of England!" The outlaws knelt down, asking pardon, their leader saying: "Call me no longer Locksley, my liege, I am Robin Hood!"

How will Richard Lionheart treat the famous Outlaw? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, April 5, 1947

When It Rains in Cherrapunji

THE fast-melting snows of winter, followed by heavy rains, have caused floods in England beyond anything in living memory. We are apt to grumble at the amount of our rainfall, yet it is a mere fraction of that of Cherrapunji, in the Khasi Hills district of Assam, India. But natives and their Welsh missionaries say that "Cherrapunji is not a wet place!"

The English and Welsh rainfall averages about 35 inches a year, that for Scotland some 50 inches annually. To what extent this year's snowfall has increased the total it is, as yet, impossible to say. Ten inches of snow is the equivalent of one inch of rain. Our aggregate, with its attendant disastrous floods, would seem the veriest trickle to Cherrapunji, where the rainfall, which amounted to 905 inches in a single twelvemonth, 86 years ago, averages 457 inches a year! And yet "it is not a wet place!"

Cherrapunji's claim as the rainiest place on Earth, however, is now disputed by Waialeale, in Hawaii, with an average in recent years of 518 inches.

The water at Cherrapunji for the most part drains away at once through the sandy soil,

while great quantities are borne off by deep descending gorges in the rocks surrounding the plateau on which the village stands. Soon after a rainstorm the boys are out playing football barefooted. The waters, carried down to the plains of Sylhet and Bengal, fertilise the great rice-fields, which are so important to those areas.

But why should Cherrapunji receive these terrific downpours? The village, on its high plateau, receives the full force of the monsoon as it sweeps in from the sea, to discharge its moisture in torrents beyond the imagination of dwellers in temperate regions. But, with all its excess, Cherrapunji has no floods; the story of ours, where we have what appears to them so little rain, will have seemed astounding.

A NEW SKYLINE FOR OLD MOSCOW

Moscow, like London, has a prodigious housing problem and has found difficulty in finding accommodation for the officials and others gathered there for the Conference. It has partly solved its transport problem by building an efficient underground railway and now, we learn, a plan to build skyscrapers, proposed by Premier Stalin, has been approved by the Soviet Council.

With a population of over four million, Moscow is today the greatest industrial area in Russia. The city doubled its population between 1926 and 1938 and is grossly overcrowded.

Mention of the ancient capital, however, still calls up a picture of a spacious city, of the romantic-looking Kremlin with its many towers and portals, the fortress that was the home of the Tsars; of the three cathedrals; and of the churches, exceeding 400 in number, from which 5000 bells used to ring out together at Eastertide.

Yet change has ever been part of Moscow's story. Russians have always loved it because it represents 20 generations of slow

development, whereas the city that was formerly named St Petersburg and supplanted Moscow as the capital was, they said, the creation of a single autocrat, Peter the Great, the enterprise not of a people but of one man.

Even the famous Kremlin has evolved slowly during its six centuries of history, with its beginnings in a structure of timber, to grow steadily in strength and magnificence. Moscow was the scene of the coronation of the Tsars; in its cathedrals are the tombs of emperors, saints, and martyrs. Change, however, has always been in progress, with a taking away and a re-erecting. Only by that method did the city rid its streets of such eyesores as tumbledown wooden shacks sandwiched between some of the finest buildings.

The city has indeed changed, and most of all in recent years, but it will be difficult even for go-ahead modern Russians to visualise their sacred city on its seven hills with skyscrapers thrusting up among its gaily-gilded and painted turrets and domes.

Youth Must Serve

THE National Service Bill is of intimate personal concern to all boys who have reached their teens.

Under this Bill, which has been described by one commentator as "an insurance against war," all young Britons between 18 and 26 will be compelled to give wholtime service in the armed forces for 18 months, with a further period of five and a half years in the Reserve. The scheme, which will replace the present scheme, begins on January 1, 1949, and will operate until January 1, 1954, unless a later date is fixed by an Order in Council.

Provision is made in the Bill for deferment of service. Young underground coal miners will definitely be deferred. Appren-

tices, learners, and students will be able to make special requests for their service to be postponed. Conscientious objectors will be required to do certain civilian work.

A young man will be able to apply to enter the Forces at 17½ if this will help in any training or career which he may intend taking up after he has done his military service.

Service in the Reserve over five and a half years will involve a total of 60 days' training, with not more than 21 days in any year.

Facilities will be provided for the further education of those undergoing wholtime service; and on their return to civilian life young men will have the right to their civilian jobs.

How SUNSPOTS AFFECT THE EARTH

By the C N Astronomer

THE variations in the Sun's output of energy, which affect humanity in so many ways, are of particular interest just now when the Sun's maximum of stormy outflow is approaching. When the Sun is tranquil and presents a "serene face" free from cyclonic sunspots, there is a maximum of tranquil conditions on the Earth—fine equable summers, mild winters, and little or no electro-magnetic disturbances.

After a period of a year or so of such peace eruptive activity begins gradually in a most remarkable manner. The presence of flares on and around the Sun is seen to increase, in number and magnitude; small sunspots then begin to appear. These are actually vast solar cyclones which grow to a size that could envelop worlds much greater than the Earth; and, literally as tornadoes of fire, they whirl across the Sun's surface at a rate averaging 5000 miles a day. They whirl through the photosphere, or light-radiating surface of the Sun, their funnel-like centres revealing what appears to be the less luminous solar interior.

They break out first in the Sun's higher latitudes between 40 and 30 degrees from the solar equator. Then, increasing in number and intensity in the course of three to four years, they break out nearer and nearer the Sun's equator, until a maximum in both number and magnitude is reached. These storm centres then begin to die



Sunspots, showing their cyclonic character and opposite rotation

out or down to a minimum, this being a slower process and taking about six to seven years. This is the cycle of the Sun as a Variable Star, and it averages about 11 years though with considerable irregularities both of period, extent, and intensity.

Usually, these solar cyclones travel over the Sun's surface in pairs and with a following of lesser "fiery whirlpools" and eruptions spurring out myriads of corpuscles at speeds approaching that of light. They form colossal streams of the Sun's internal energy which is thus poured out far into space, much of it never to return to the Sun. The Earth, however, receives a certain proportion of this energy, and thus shares in the Sun's variability by having more or less co-related disturbances.

So in one way or another we, the Earth's inhabitants, are made to feel that the climate is not quite the same. The effects vary in different areas, largely according to geographical situation, and they always tend toward extremes. Too numerous to detail here, they take the form of an overdose of some of the elements, due to the over-battering of our little world by this increased outpouring of the Sun's energy. G. F. M.

WHAT ARE MOTHAKS?

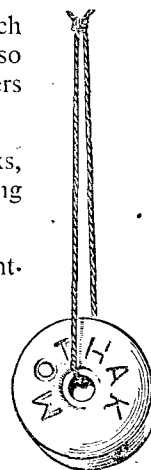
MOTHAKS are dainty little tablets, each threaded with a loop of art silk cord so that they hang easily on clothes hangers and hooks in the wardrobe.

They will protect all your favourite frocks, suits, coats, jumpers and other clothing from the risk of damage by moths.

They are pleasant to use and very efficient.

See that there is a MOTHAK protecting each garment in your wardrobe.

A bag of eight MOTHAKS costs 8d. Only a penny to guard a garment from harm for several months.



Made by
THOMPSON & CAPPER WHOLESALE LTD., LIVERPOOL, 19

THE BRAN TUB

FOR LIFE

THE doorman after 50 years' service refused his firm's offer of a pension.

"I'd never have taken the job on," he said indignantly, "if I hadn't thought it was permanent."

On the Broad Highway

Do not step off the kerb while "wool gathering," but keep your mind on the traffic when you want to cross the road.

Use a pedestrian crossing, but if there is none, choose the least dangerous point, well away from corners or curves, to go to the other side.

ENIGMA

WE have them in our bodies, in our arms, our legs, and everywhere.

They sound just like a shellfish small.

Which with some other shellfish share.

The honours of a famous song, Still popular, and going strong.

Answer next week

Tongue Twister

WAGGLY writers want white ruled writing paper to write rightly.

A POLISHING MOP

IF you pad an old broom with bits of felt or soft rag and cover it with felt or flannel, it will make a good polishing mop which will save Mother hours of stooping. Or, what is better still, you can use it yourself and so free her from as much floor work as you can.

BEDTIME CORNER

An Easter Adventure

"I RAN here from Winkley in ten minutes," panted Mary as she joined the other boys and girls outside Pengleton Church, where they were meeting to decorate the church for Easter.

Billy, who was inclined to boast, retorted: "I could do it in five minutes."

Then the Vicar arrived and, glancing at the church clock, exclaimed: "Oh dear, now I can't get this important letter to Mr Walters! He's leaving



Winkley by bus in five minutes' time."

"Billy could get it there," proudly suggested little Rosie, a great friend of Billy's. "He can run here from Winkley in five minutes, so he could run there in five minutes because it's mostly downhill."

"Oh, will you, Billy?" asked

Jacko's Perch is Lucky For the Perch



Jacko decided to get some first-hand information about fishing.

THE DANGER LINE

THERE was a young missie called Pryde,
Who strolled on the seashore at Ryde,
Till a boatman passed by
And called out to her, "Hi!
Look out, you'll get caught by the tide."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is low in the south-east, Saturn is in the south, and Uranus is in the west. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 9 o'clock on the evening of Friday, April 4.



LULLABY

"PROSE" lecturer: There I stood on the edge of a precipice—a vast, yawning chasm beneath.
Voice from the audience: Was it yawning before you got there?



He thought it grand fun when the fisherman had a bite.

Catch Question

WHAT would a turnip be if left in a bucket of water all night?

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Deserted Rookery. High in the elm tops several ragged clumps of dead sticks proclaimed the fact that a rookery had existed there in the past.

"Why did the rooks leave?" Don asked Farmer Gray.

"Probably because the trees had become unsafe," was the answer. "The slender topmost branches, in which the rooks usually build, must be strong and supple. When the trees grow old the sap may not reach these branches, which results in their becoming brittle and snapping. Occasionally rooks have been known to leave trees which appeared quite sound, but investigations showed that the trees were beginning to decay."

Wise rooks.

Anagram

MY first means to venture, although it is true
That my letters transposed become quite costly, too;
Transpose yet again, and it will be agreed
That my letters, you'll find, fall quite simply to read.

Answer next week

Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, April 2, to Tuesday, April 8.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Conversion of Mr Growser—another Toytown story. 5.30 Indian Teaplaters and their Pets—a talk. Northern Ireland, 5.30 Bran and the King's Joke; another Panjandorum story. Scottish, 5.30 Eastman of Rochester—the man who invented the modern photographic film.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Drowsy Dormouse (Part 1). 5.15 The House of Arden (Part 3). Scottish, 5.0 Prizewinning programmes; When I Grow Up (No 4). Welsh, 5.30 The Lake of Tears; Easter Customs.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Newest Angel; The Story of Holy Week.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Muggins the Archaeologist, another story about Billy Smith's dog; The Last Voyage Home. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Story; Nature Diary; Try Doing This; Nan Shaw (songs).

SUNDAY, 5.0 Glasgow Orpheus Choir. 5.40 Service for Easter Day. Northern Ireland, 5.0 An Easter play; Frank Capper (songs); Story.

MONDAY, 5.0 The House at Pooh Corner (No 2). 5.40 Cow-leaze Farm. Scottish, 5.25 Nature Scrapbook.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Variety. 5.35 Sports Quiz. Midland, 5.0 The Kelpie; Young Artists.

A GOOD IDEA

AT your next party try this instead of musical chairs.

Everyone should take a card from an ordinary pack, and as they do this you put the identical card from another pack into a hat, shuffling these well after the last one is put in.

Then get your guests to hop, skip, or dance in couples. Dancing goes on until the music stops, then two cards are drawn from the hat, and the dancers holding the duplicates of these leave the floor, their partners dancing together in the next round, and so on.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Jumbled Subjects

Algebra; Writing; Geometry; Arithmetic; Chemistry; Botany.

M	E	R	I	T	B	A	R
A	P	E	S	P	O	R	E
V	I	M	C	L	A	M	P
I	C	I	C	L	E	S	
S	T	R	E	A	D	I	
F	E	A	S	T	E	R	
R	A	D	I	A	R	V	I
I	T	E	M	P	E	R	T
B	E	E	S	A	R	E	

HAVE A TOFFEE?

HAVE A Sharp's

Sharp's SPECIALISE

IN MAKING **TOFFEE**

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD.
of MAIDSTONE.
"THE TOFFEE SPECIALISTS"